

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 5 and 7 remain in this application. Claims 6 and 8 through 15 have been amended by eliminating multiple dependent claims and deleting preferably clauses. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made".

The support for these amendments is found in the claims as originally filed. These amendments are being entered to bring the claims into conformance with, *inter alia*, 37 CFR §1.75; no new matter is added.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

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What is claimed is:

1. An absorbent article, said absorbent article having a body surface and a garment surface and comprising:
  - a liquid permeable topsheet, said topsheet providing a barrier which inhibits rewet, wherein said topsheet has a compressibility of less than about 488 g/cubic cm;
  - a liquid impermeable backsheet disposed beneath said topsheet and joined thereto at least about a periphery of said absorbent article; and
  - an absorbent core disposed between said topsheet and said backsheet, said absorbent core having a high internal surface area which creates a high capillary pressure to enhance absorption of bodily fluids deposited onto said body surface;wherein said topsheet and said core cooperate to provide said absorbent article with a liquid strikethrough of less than about 55 seconds and a wetback of less than 30 milligrams.
2. An absorbent article, said absorbent article having a body surface and a garment surface and comprising:
  - a liquid permeable topsheet, said topsheet providing a barrier which inhibits rewet, wherein said topsheet has a compressibility of less than about 488 g/cubic cm;
  - a liquid impermeable backsheet disposed beneath said topsheet and joined thereto at least about a periphery of said absorbent article; and
  - an absorbent core disposed between said topsheet and said backsheet, said absorbent core having a high internal surface area which creates a high capillary pressure to enhance absorption of bodily fluids deposited onto said body surface;wherein said topsheet and said core cooperate to provide said absorbent article with a drop acquisition time of less than about 30 seconds and a wetback of less than 30 milligrams.
3. An absorbent article, said absorbent article having a body surface and a garment surface and comprising:
  - a liquid permeable topsheet, said topsheet providing a barrier which inhibits rewet,;
  - a liquid impermeable backsheet disposed beneath said topsheet and joined thereto at least about a periphery of said absorbent article; and

an absorbent core disposed between said topsheet and said backsheet, said absorbent core having a high internal surface area which creates a high capillary pressure to enhance absorption of bodily fluids deposited onto said body surface;

wherein said absorbent article has a panel softness between about 30 and about 60 PSU and said topsheet and said core cooperate to provide said absorbent article with a drop acquisition time of less than about 30 seconds and a wetback of less than 30 milligrams.

4. An absorbent article, said absorbent article having a body surface and a garment surface and comprising:

a liquid permeable topsheet, said topsheet providing a barrier which inhibits rewet, wherein said topsheet has a Surface Density of less than about 0.035 grams per cubic centimeter;

a liquid impermeable backsheet disposed beneath said topsheet and joined thereto at least about a periphery of said absorbent article; and

an absorbent core disposed between said topsheet and said backsheet, said absorbent core having a high internal surface area which creates a high capillary pressure to enhance absorption of bodily fluids deposited onto said body surface;

wherein said topsheet and said core cooperate to provide said absorbent article with a drop acquisition time of less than about 30 seconds and a wetback of less than 30 milligrams.

5. An absorbent article, said absorbent article having a body surface and a garment surface and comprising:

a liquid permeable topsheet, said topsheet providing a barrier which inhibits rewet;

a liquid impermeable backsheet disposed beneath said topsheet and joined thereto at least about a periphery of said absorbent article; and

an absorbent core disposed between said topsheet and said backsheet, said absorbent core having a high internal surface area which creates a high capillary pressure to enhance absorption of bodily fluids deposited onto said body surface;

wherein said topsheet has a panel softness between about 30 and about 60 PSU and said topsheet and said core cooperate to provide said absorbent article with a drop acquisition time of less than about 30 seconds and a wetback of less than 30 milligrams.

6. An absorbent article according to CLAIM 5 of Claims 1 to 5 wherein said at least a portion of said absorbent core has a mean absorption pressure of greater than about 7 cm.

7. An absorbent article according to Claim 6 wherein said absorbent core has a mean absorption pressure between about 7 cm and about 25 cm.
8. An absorbent article according to CLAIM 1 wherein said topsheet comprises a formed thermoplastic film materials having a plurality of macroapertures and a multiplicity of microapertures wherein land area between the microapertures and the macroapertures is also provided with a plurality of microscopic, discontinuous, spaced regions that comprise depositions of a low surface energy material that create a surface energy gradient between the depositions and the underlying polymeric structure of the formed film.
9. An absorbent article according to CLAIM 7 wherein said topsheet comprises a nonwoven materials having depositions of a low surface energy material that create a surface energy gradient between the depositions and the underlying polymeric structure of the nonwoven material.
10. An absorbent article according to CLAIM 7 wherein said topsheet comprises a laminate of a nonwoven material and a formed apertured thermoplastic film, the nonwoven material having depositions of a low surface energy material on the surface thereof that is opposite to the surface joined to the thermoplastic film for forming the laminate, wherein the low surface energy material creates a surface energy gradient between the depositions and the underlying polymeric structure of the nonwoven material.
11. An absorbent article according to CLAIM 1 wherein said absorbent core comprises a polymeric foam formed from a high internal phase emulsion.
12. An absorbent article according to CLAIM 10 wherein said absorbent core comprises a blend of chemically stiffened, twisted, and curled bulking fibers, high surface area fibers, and thermoplastic binding fibers.
13. An absorbent article according to CLAIM 10 wherein said absorbent core comprises an airlaid fibrous web comprising a substantially uniform admixture of hardwood fibers and softwood fibers.
14. An absorbent article according to CLAIM 13 wherein said core further comprises superabsorbent particles.
15. An absorbent article according to CLAIM 1 wherein said absorbent article further comprises an acquisition component that is pattern bonded to said topsheet so as to create an unbonded window, wherein said acquisition component is disposed between said

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